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Comment of the American Embassy, Tehran, on
NIE-73, "Conditions and Trends in the Middle
East Affecting United States Security"

The general reaction of those reading the paper was that it was a good summary of Middle East conditions and trends. Most of the material therein appeared to be of character and nature familiar to those who keep abreast of current developments in the Middle East. The personnel of the Embassy who have read this document were in general agreement with it. Some of them have raised the question as to what the United States Government might be able to do about the conditions and trends described as they affected United States security.

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Comment of the American Embassy, Beirut, on
NIE-73, "Conditions and Trends in the Middle
East Affecting United States Security"

50X1 After perusal by various Embassy officials including
[redacted] the Service Attaches, the consensus is that the
document represents an excellent evaluation of the security
situation in the Near East and that it offers valid founda-
tion for the development of American policies.

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Comment of the American Embassy, Damascus on
NIE-73, "Conditions and Trends in the Middle
East Affecting United States Security"

Officers of this Mission have read with interest NIE-73 and have agreed that the discussion and conclusions contained therein are accurate and well-reasoned. A few points which elicited specific comments are listed below, as requested in the letter which transmitted the publication.

Page 3 - Regarding the discussion of obstacles to stability, the Embassy believes that insofar as Colonel SHISHIKLI has provided strong leadership in Syria, his rule has had a stabilizing influence on the country and has reduced the disruptive capabilities of "the street".

Page 3, Para 17 - Regarding the statement that "Syria has broken the solid Arab front against resettlement of Arab refugees" it is believed that, in fact, UNRWA concluded a "program agreement" with the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan in July 1952, while an agreement was signed with Syria in October of that year. Moreover, it should be noted that both agreements avoided the word "resettlement" and that the public is, for the most part, unaware that resettlement was intended.

Page 4, Para 22 - As the Department is aware, the new anti-Zionist trend of Soviet policy and the Soviet diplomatic rupture with Israel have increased to a still indeterminable extent the potentialities of Soviet influence in the area.

Page 6, Para 28 - Regarding the pressure expected from states in the area for a greater share of oil revenue, it should be noted that non-producing countries traversed by pipelines, such as Syria and Lebanon, have already demanded much larger transit fees than those provided by previous agreements.

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